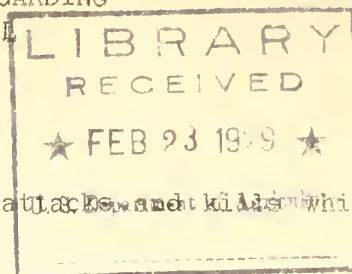


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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED REGARDING
WHITE-PINE BLISTER RUST CONTROL



Question: Just what is blister rust?

Answer: Blister rust is a fungous disease which attacks and kills white pine trees. It is NOT a bug or a worm.

Q.- How does it work and spread?

A.- The disease enters white pines through the needles and grows through the bark of the twigs and branches into the trunk, thus girdling and eventually killing the trees. About three years after a tree is infected, orange-yellow blisters break through the diseased bark of mature cankers. From these blisters millions of spores are scattered over long distances by the wind and infect the leaves of currant and gooseberry plants. On the currants and gooseberries a new type of spore is found which spreads the rust in midsummer and fall back to the white pines.

Q.- How far from the pine is it necessary to destroy currant and gooseberry bushes to protect the trees from blister rust?

A.- Currant and gooseberry bushes must be destroyed within 900 feet of white pines to protect the trees from severe damage.

Q.- Is there very much of an increase of blister rust in New Hampshire?

A.- In 1915 the disease was known in only one town; up to 1929 it has been located on pine in 214 towns in the State. In unprotected areas new pine infections continue to appear year after year, while in areas in which currants and gooseberries have been eradicated there are few, if any, new infections.

Q.- How long is a tree infected with the disease before it is likely to be noticed?

A.- A tree may be infected from two to three years before the disease becomes evident on the pine, and even then it would not be noticed by the average pine owner. The pine owner would not be apt to notice the rust until it had killed some of the branches.

Q.- How long does it take blister rust to kill a pine tree after it is first infected?

A.- The time required to kill a pine tree depends upon the size of the tree and the number and location of the infections on the tree. The smaller the tree the quicker it will die, but it is fairly certain that trees infected before they are 25 years of age will never reach even box-board size before they are killed. Young trees up to 10 years old may be killed in 4 or 5 years after infection, while older trees require a correspondingly longer period of time. Everyone should keep in mind that it is very important to protect the young growth, for the loss is bound to be greater here than in cases where the trees are of merchantable size before becoming infected.

Q.- What has been done in New Hampshire to control blister rust?

A.- The State Forestry Commission has been, and is cooperating with towns and individuals in the protection of the white pine from this disease. To date more than 26 million currant and gooseberry bushes have been destroyed on an area totaling 2,055,031 acres.

Q.- How many towns have cooperated in this work with the State Forestry Commission?

A.- From 1918 to 1928, inclusive, 187 towns have cooperated in control work.

Q.- Have any of these towns finished protecting their pine areas?

A.- Yes, 60 of the 187 have had all of their pine areas cleared of currants and gooseberries for the first time, and there are a number of other towns which will be in this class with one or two more years of eradication work.

Q.- What help does the State give to a town that appropriates funds for blister rust control?

A.- The State increases the town appropriation 25 per cent, furnishes FREE supervision, and makes no charge against the town for any checking done by State inspectors or for the work on final reports and maps. In other words, if a town appropriates \$400, the State adds \$100, and the total of \$500 is used to pay wages and other necessary costs connected with the application of control measures in the town.

Q.- Is the cost of currant and gooseberry eradication too high to warrant doing the work?

A.- NO: the average cost for all eradication work done in New Hampshire has been about 19 cents an acre. The cost varies a great deal, depending upon local conditions, and in this district averages a little higher than this figure, but the range is from 4 cents to one dollar an acre, and seldom does it reach the latter figure.

Q.- How are the pine areas to be worked selected?

A.- The selection of the town and the agent representing the State Forestry Commission select the pine areas to be worked each year.

Q.- Does the town have anyone to inspect the control work performed by the crew?

A.- Yes; the selectmen are requested to appoint someone in the town to act as TOWN INSPECTOR who will spend AT LEAST one day per week in checking the control work done by the crew and find out just what conditions are in the field. The public is also invited to visit the crew and inspect the work at any time, unknown to the crew.

Q.- How is the town inspector paid?

A.- He is paid either from town funds or from the appropriation for blister-rust control work, as the selectmen may desire.

Q.- Are all the currants and gooseberries in a town destroyed?

A.- No; control work is recommended only for areas containing sufficient pine to justify the cost of the work. The currants and gooseberries are destroyed in a safety zone of 900 feet around the white-pine areas to protect the trees. Areas containing insufficient pine to warrant an expenditure of funds for control work are eliminated by scouting.

Q.- Is New Hampshire the only State that is carrying on white-pine blister rust control work?

A.- No; there are 17 States engaged in protecting their pine from this disease.

(New Hampshire Forestry Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, cooperating.)

February 15, 1929.

